THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) Details cf export and imports for major commodities groups for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and April-September '93 during 1993-94 are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix CIXIX, Annexure No. 54] Export target for the current year has been fixed at US $ 22132 million (Rs. 70842 crores). The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages export growth of 13.6 percent per annum in volume terms. No largets are set for imports.

CANCELLATION OF EXPORT LICENCES BY TEA BOARDT

2365. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn ro a cews-item published in the Financial Express, dated 2-12-93 captioned 'Tea Board cancel export-licence of three farms" and suspended licence of three others engaged in the sale of tea to Russia;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons advanced by the Tea Board therefor;

(e) what was the total number of tea shipment licence issued during the current year ending November, as ccnnpared to the corresponding period last year indicating cverseas internal demand for Indian tea as compared to demand of tea to other countries :

(d) whether it is a fact that in terms of exports, even Sri Lanka had overtaken India; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to shift from greater volumes of tea exports to higher value-added export of lea in order to compete With: other countries, and the steps taken io far to increase the standards of packaging industry in respect pf tea in India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) r (a) and (b) Complaints have been received by the Tea Bourd against a few Indian exporters for exports of substandard and inferior quality teas. These complaints have been looked into by the Tea Board and action has been taken under the pro-visions of the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957 against such exporters. Accordingly, Tea Board have cancelled the tea exporters licence of Ms, Amusar Im-pex Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Dolphin International Pvt. Ud., New Delhi. Fxpor-tcrs licence of Mis. India Tea Produce Co. Ltd., Calcutta and M|s. Jainsons Export Corporation, Mew Delhi have been suspended by the Tea Board. Tea Board has also initiated proceedings against another firm, which field a writ petition before Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta and the matter is subjudice.

(c) Shipment licences issued for exports of tea during April-November 1993 were ot the order cf 139.81 million kgs. as against 133.62 million kgs. during the corresponding period of previous year. Increase m the shipment licences during the current year indicates higher demand of Indian teas in the importing countries, Domestic coifsumption of tea during the current year is estimated at 560 million kgs as compared fo 540 millon kg during 1992.

(d) While jn quantitative terms exports of tea from Sri Lanka are higher than exports of Indian tea, in terms of valae Indian espoits have been higher than that of Sri Lanka. Main reason for higher quantum of exports of tea by Sri Lanka in quantitative terms is the negligible domestic demand for the tea in Sri Lanka.

(e) Steps taken to boost exports cf value added teas include uninational pro-motional campaigns throuh Tea Board's offices aborad. (i) lt consists of : participation in trade fairsi exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards varipus unique characteristics of Indian tea, ('ii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol and (iv) support to vririous foreign brands containing Indian tea A part of the expenditure inctitrtd by importers for promotional compaiges are met from Tea Board budget. Tea

Board have also undertaken Dujeeling . and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K.

In order to inipioye standards of pac- kaging in respecd of tea produced io India, exporters have been advised time and again to improve the packaging standardss so as to match the international requiiemenst, A schsmo spensored by Tea Board for improvement of paokaging of tea specially for the purpose of export has been launched recently *by* the Indian Institute of packaging.

TEA PRODUCTION

2560.. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased fo state :

(a) whether sl is a fact that India's tea production is not likely to touch the target fixed during 5993,

(b) if so what is the target and the likely production; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Targets lor production of tea is fixed on the basis of financial year i.e. April to March. for 1993-94, it is fixed at 730 million kgs. subject to favourable whather conditions. Given the present trend, (his targe: is likely to be achieved with a production slightly over 730 million kgs.

(c) Does not arise.

LOANS FOR PRAWN FARMING

2367. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VEN- KATRAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government are granting loans for prawn farming which is a foreign exchange earning trede; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose io investigate areas; where this industry may be started with Central Aid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON- SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS TRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM- MERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No Sir, Government does not provide any lean. However many commercial and scheduled banks and other financial institutions like IFCI, IRBI ICICI are iwovidiag loans to Support techno aconomically viable aquaculture projects.

(b) Besides credit facilities as above MPEDA pvovide subsidy assistance well as aquity participation.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING DUMPING

2368. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been complaints of dumping Industries; if st), the names of the Industries effected because of the dumping;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to agest the dumping; and

(c) whether Government would consider short listing the itrams being dumped (hereby affected the Indian Industries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) 'to (c) The Designated Authority, under the Indian Castoms Tariff Act 1975 as Amended in 1982 and the Custotni Tariff Rules there under, has received complaints from the domestic industry alleging dumping of certain Chemicals, petfcchemicafc, drugs and intermediates etc.

the Desigrated Authority initiated antidumping investigations concerning import *ot* PVC Resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bispencl A. The authority has recommended imposition of anti duming duty on import ttf PVC Resin. In its pre-, limtnary findings concerning import of Bishenol-A the authority found a dumping